

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /059 W

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R 171623Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7026

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 459

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN PFOR ACLM GR GW US

SUBJECT: FRG/GREEK AGREEMENT FOR SETTLEMENT OF WORLD

WAR I CLAIMS

REFS: (A) STATE 11248; (B) ATHENS 276; (C) ATHENS 8075,

11/8/74; (D) ATHENS A-320, 11/11/74.

1. DCM SUMMONED BY MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS LAGAKOS TO JAN 17 DISCUSSION OF CLAIMS QUESTION. LAGAKOS NOTED THAT AMB. ALEXANDRAKIS HAD ALREADY MADE SEVERAL REPRESENTATIONS ON MATTER IN WASHINGTON AND THAT DCM'S INVOLVEMENT WAS BEING SOUGHT AT PERSONAL DIRECTION OF UNDER SECRETARY VARVITSIOTIS. VARVITSIOTIS HAS INFORMATION THAT A QUESTION MAY BE RAISED IN PARLIAMENT IN NEAR FUTURE ON CLAIMS AGREEMENT. IN SUCH A SITUATION, GOG WOULD HAVE "TO PROVIDE THE FACTS," I.E., EXPLAIN THAT FRENCH AND BRITISH HAVE INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT AGREEMENT, AND THAT US BLOCKING FINAL SETTLEMENT, WON ONLY AFTER DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS, TO UPHOLD OBJECTION OF TWO US INDIVIDUALS REGARDING METHOD OF PAYMENT TO LAWYERS.

2. PAYMENT OF LAWYERS - LAGAKOS STATED THAT GOG HAS ONLY ONE CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION, TO DR HANSJORG PLEWNIA, A  
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GERMAN NATIONAL, AND HE HAS RAISED NO OBJECTION OVER PAYMENT

PROVISIONS. RELATIONSHIP OF PLEWNIA TO HIS COLEAGUES NOT A CONCERN OF GOG. IT IS OPINION OF FONMIN LEGAL STAFF THAT US NOT ENTITLED DELAY APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BECAUSE OF "IRRELEVANT QUESTIONS." MOREOVER, BEYOND LEGAL QUESTION, FONMIN RECEIVING NUMEROUS QUESTIONS FROM CLAIMANTS, "POOR PEOPLE" WHO ARE NOT ABLE TO UNDERSTAND LONG DELAY BY USG. WITH RESPECT MRS. WAMVETSOS, LAGAKOS STATED THAT SHE HAS RECENTLY REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT AT FONMIN BUT NO MEETING HAS TAKEN PLACE. HE GAVE NO SIGN THAT MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS ON PAYMENT QUESTION WILL MATERIALIZE.

3. NOTICE TO US CLAIMANTS - DCM EMPHASIZED US INTEREST IN ENSURING US CLAIMANTS NOTIFIED BY (A) SENDING WRITTEN NOTICE WHEN POSSIBLE, AND (B) HONEST EFFORT TO REACH OTHERS THROUGH PRESS. LAGAKOS REITERATED POINTS IN OCT 25, 1974, NOTE VERBALE (REF D), THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF CLAIMANTS BECAUSE OF NATIONALITY, ADDING THAT GOG EAGER TO HAVE LEGITIMATE CLAIMANTS COME FORWARD. HE REMARKED THAT FRENCH AND BRITISH SEEMED SATISFIED WITH GREEK RESPONSE.

4. COMMENT: FROM EMBASSY PERSPECTIVE, TIME HAS COME TO ASSIGN HIGH PRIORITY TO CASE, AND MAKE CLEAR DECISION ON OUR POSITION. FROM RESULTS OF LAGAKOS MEETING APPEARS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT LAWYER PAYMENT QUESTION WILL RESOLVE ITSELF. FURTHER DELAY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY MEAN EXPOSURE OF US TO CRITICISM IN PARLIAMENT AND PRESS, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW MORE POSITIVE STAND OF FRENCH AND BRITISH. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPTS CONCERN OVER INTERESTS OF US CITIZEN LAWYERS BUT HOPES THAT, IN LIGHT OF THE MANY OUTSTANDING US-GREEK BILATERAL ISSUES AT STAKE AT PRESENT TIME, A FORMULA CAN BE FOUND TO ENABLE OUR RAPID APPROVAL OF CLAIMS SETTLEMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGREEMENTS, PROPERTY WAR CLAIMS, DEBT REPAYMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchandr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 11248, 75 ATHENS 276, 75 ATHENS 8075  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchandr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2003 by buchandr>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FRG/GREEK AGREEMENT FOR SETTLEMENT OF WORLD WAR I CLAIMS  
**TAGS:** EFIN, PFOR, ACLM, GR, GE, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006